

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of associating an URL (Uniform Resource Location) with a Web object(s) for transport from a server side (their original server) to a client side via ~~the~~ a Usenet or a Usenet-like system, the method including the steps of: on the server side,

a. Constructing/~~determining~~/and allocating a said URL (Uniform Resource Locator) for the object, and

b. placing the object on ~~the~~ an original server in such a way that ~~this~~ said URL

~~1-~~ (i) contains information necessary to find the object in a Usenet server;

~~2-~~ (ii) indicates that the object has been posted to ~~the~~ said Usenet system and may be found on a Usenet server; and

3. (iii) can be used to transparently retrieve the object from its original server;

(c) associating said URL with the Web object;

(d) posting the object on the Usenet;

(e) on the client side intercepting requests for the object, interpreting them and using information extracted, as a result of the interpretation, to locate the object from a Usenet server;

(f) if the object is not found posted on the Usenet server, or its version is not current:

(i) retrieving the object from the original server;

(ii) receiving digitally signed permission to post the object on behalf of the original server and to cancel an expired version, if any, and transmitting this permission to one or more of Usenet servers along with the object.

Claims 2-16 (canceled).

17. (new): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein creating said URL for use in the Web, includes the steps of:

providing a first field having information sufficient to locate an object on a web server,
and

providing a second field having information sufficient to locate the object on the Usenet system.

18. (new): A method as claimed in 17, wherein the first field includes an initial URL, and the second field includes a Usenet message ID.

19. (new): A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first and second fields are the same and includes a Usenet message ID.

20. (new): A method as claimed in 19, wherein the message ID is encoded in URL, query parameters.

21 (new): A communication system adapted to distribute Web objects from a web host server to a client, the system having:

a Web host server on which the web objects are stored, the web host server being coupled to the WWW,

the coupling between the client, the WWW and web host server enabling bi-directional communication,

including:

providing a first Caching agent intermediate and coupled to the client and WWW and Usenet, and

providing a second Caching agent intermediate and coupled to the WWW and the Usenet and the web host server,

wherein the first Caching agent and second Caching agents enable communication of objects between the client and the Web host server to be via either the Internet or the Usenet.

wherein the first caching agent performs the following functions:

analyses Web requests containing URLs of required object,

based on the URL, decides, whether an object has been posted on the Usenet by its original server and thus, may be found in the Usenet,

if the object has not been posted to the Usenet, the first agent passes the request further for normal processing by the Web server or cache agent;

if the object has been posted to the Usenet;

based on its configuration information, the first agent selects one or more available Usenet servers and tries to find the required object on them,

if the object is found, the first agent retrieves it and returns to the client and / or

if the object is not available, the first agent passes the request for further processing by the original server or a caching engine;

wherein the second caching agent performs the following functions:

intercepts requests to the server and identifies those that are requesting Usenet posted objects,

if such a request is found, the second agent cleans up its URL, removing its part that concerns newsgroup or including the required information in the URL, and combining it with object placement in such a way, that no further cleaning is necessary;

once cleaned, the URL is passed further for processing by the server or server side cache engine,

tracing events of modification of the server objects that are to be, or have been posted to the Usenet;

if an object has been modified (or created), the second agent cancels its previous version, if necessary in the Usenet and posts a new digitally signed one, and/or

periodically re-post objects to the Usenet to ensure their availability.

22. (new): A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein creating a URL for use in the Web includes the steps of:

providing a first field having information sufficient to locate an object on a web server, and providing a second field having information sufficient to locate the object on the Usenet.

23(new): A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first field includes an initial URL, and the second field includes a Usenet message ID.

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24. (new) A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first and second fields are the same and include a Usenet message ID.

25. (new): A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the message ID is encoded in URL query parameters.

26. (new) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first caching agent is an application located on the TCP/IP path from the client to the Web cache.

27 (new): A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the second caching agent is located intermediate the web host server and the Internet.